

Donation will plug gap in Cape Horn Trail

Norm Danielson, founder of a grocery chain, pledges \$50,000 for the project that many will enjoy

By RICK BELLA
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VANCOUVER — The Columbia Land Trust has lined up the last \$50,000 needed to buy a critical link in the long-planned Cape Horn Trail.

Norm Danielson of Camas, founder of the Danielson Thriftway

supermarket chain, has pledged to donate the money to the land trust through the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. Glenn Lamb, the land trust's executive director, announced Thursday.

Danielson said he wanted to give something back to the community and to encourage more people to enjoy the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

"This community has been good to my family and me," he said. "I want to do something for them. This idea of a connected trail sys-

tem through the gorge caught my eye. I liked it. This trail seems like something a lot of people would enjoy, and it's right in our back yard."

Last year, the Vancouver-based nonprofit land trust used a cash gift from Broughton and Mary Bishop, whose family owns Pendleton Woolen Mills, to purchase an option to buy 12 acres near Cape Horn, about six miles east of Washougal. Since then, the land trust has been seeking additional donations.

The half-mile land link is an im-

portant connector for the Cape Horn Trail, long envisioned in public recreation plans for the gorge. The trail, when completed, will cross six miles of land recently acquired and incorporated into the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The trail will run from Lawton Creek, just east of Washougal, to beyond the top of Cape Horn, about 500 feet above the Washington 14 overlook.

"The views are just spectacular from there," Lamb said. "It really gives you a view of the gorge and its geography."

Until last year, the land was unavailable. However, the land trust worked with the property owner to ensure that the land would be used for a public trail.

The Cape Horn Trail project received a boost in 1997 through an appropriations bill sponsored by U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash.

The U.S. Forest Service will plan and build the trail. When completed, the trail will be incorporated into recreation plans for the 292,615-acre national scenic area, and 83-mile-long swatch of land straddling the Columbia.

Columbia Land Trust helps landowners accomplish their private, voluntary land-conservation goals. The 10-year-old land trust has completed more than 1,000 acres of conservation projects from the east end of the gorge to the coast, in both Washington and Oregon.

In March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded a \$999,000 grant to the land trust to buy more than 1,500 acres of wetlands and restore 4,400 acres in the Lower Columbia River corridor from Portland to the Pacific.